

Intervention: Management Academy for Public Health

Finding: Insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

The Management Academy for Public Health (MAPH) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill targets an audience of public health managers in state and local government. Two to six staff members attend as a team that works together on developing a public health business plan.

Organized into three phases, MAPH uses multiple learning methods including lectures, problem-based learning through public health cases, class discussions, group projects, exercises, role-playing activities, and distance learning. The program is one year long and consists of phase one (a five-day session about management skills), phase two (10 months of distance learning courses and activities) and phase three (three days of classes on negotiation, partnership skills, and diversity).

Findings from the systematic reviews:

A review of CDC model programs found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of the Management Academy for Public Health program. Practices that lack sufficient research to support effectiveness should not be confused with ineffective programs. Rather, they should be recognized as programs that have the potential to become evidence-based practices—if properly evaluated. Practitioners are encouraged to monitor the impact of these programs in their communities and report on their findings in order to build a base of knowledge sufficient to reach consensus.

Additional information:

[Management Academy for Public Health - www.maph.unc.edu/](http://www.maph.unc.edu/)

References:

Setliff R, Porter J, Malison, M, Frederick S, Balderson T. Strengthening the Public Health Workforce: Three CDC Programs That Prepare Managers and Leaders for the Challenges of the 21st Century. *Journal of Public Health Management Practice* 2003; 9(2): 91-102.